



**Testimony of Joel Stadtlander  
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United States Senate  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
Subcommittee on Education & the American Family  
“Building Pathways: Advancing Workforce Development in the 21st Century”  
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Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the Subcommittee. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today about workforce development and the partnerships that are strengthening Alabama’s manufacturing talent pipeline.

ArcelorMittal is the world's leading steel and mining company, with over 126,000 employees in more than 60 countries, including over 3,000 employees in the US. We are a leader in all major global steel markets, including automotive, construction, household appliances, and packaging, with leading research and development (R&D) and technology in the United States, as well as mining interests and outstanding distribution networks.

I come today from ArcelorMittal Calvert, which is recognized as one of the most advanced steel finishing facilities in the world. The facility includes a river terminal, a newly constructed electric arc furnace as well as a hot strip mill, cold rolling mill, and hot-dip galvanizing lines. The facility serves the automotive, construction, pipe and tube, service center, and appliance/HVAC industries. ArcelorMittal Calvert also helps to meet increasing automotive OEM demand for advanced high-strength steels that are needed to produce lighter-weight, more fuel-efficient and safer vehicles.

Construction of a new electrical steel facility is underway at Calvert, creating even more opportunities and demand for a skilled workforce. The project is expected to create up to 1,300 jobs during the construction phase and as many as 200 permanent positions to support the plant’s ongoing operations.

In South Alabama, we face a highly competitive labor market. Applicants come to us with good work ethic and enthusiasm, but many lack key foundational skills such as math, troubleshooting, reading technical schematics, electrical fundamentals, and automation skills. These are essential for success in modern manufacturing.



ArcelorMittal Calvert is proud to lead in workforce development through strong partnerships with local schools, community colleges, and universities. We actively participate in apprenticeship programs such as the FAME on the Coast program at Bishop State Community College, where students earn an associate degree while gaining hands-on experience in advanced manufacturing. Similarly, we work with Coastal Community College to support registered apprenticeships in fields like industrial maintenance and electrical instrumentation. In both cases, to remove financial barriers, we provide last-dollar scholarships so students can graduate debt-free.

Our commitment extends beyond those entering the workforce. We invest in community programs that educate and inspire children, helping them see opportunities they might never have imagined. Workforce development starts early, and we support initiatives and outreach not just to high school, but also middle and elementary. These programs help prepare future talent and create awareness of careers in manufacturing.

As a steel industry leader, we also are working to change outdated perceptions regarding the trades. Steelmaking today is highly innovative and technologically advanced. We are creating good-paying careers that offer stability, growth, and benefits—careers that allow individuals to build a future for themselves and their families and, in many cases, without the burden of student debt.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify today and I look forward to your questions.